

REMARKS

The applicant has carefully considered the Office action dated September 29, 2005. By way of this Response, claims 16-19 have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

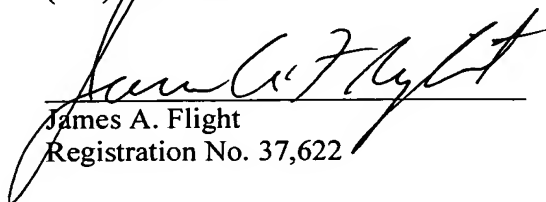
The Office action identifies two patently distinct inventions, namely, the invention of claims 16-19 (Group I), and the invention of claims 1-15 (Group II). Applicant hereby elects Group II (i.e., claims 1-15) for further prosecution in this case without traverse. Accordingly, claims 16-19 have been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a divisional application.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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